

Bay Trail Rider

Winter 2003

The newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, a nonprofit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments



Lance Iversen/San Francisco Chronicle

The Bay Trail Adventure: A Front Page Story

This past summer brought unexpected showers of media coverage to the Bay Trail as it was the focus of an unprecedented seven-part front-page **San Francisco Chronicle** series. The opening line both sets the stage and encapsulates the message: the San Francisco Bay is “the center of everything in the Bay Area” – and the Bay Trail serves as a public portal to the Bay.

Lead reporter **Carl T. Hall** spent nearly a month exploring completed sections of the Bay Trail. Hall and other Chronicle reporters unfolded an enticing and vividly compelling story of the Bay Trail’s colorful characters and places. The articles describe the transformation that has been gradually taking place along the San Francisco Bay shoreline, knitting together many separate but inter-related stories about how people connect people with the Bay environment.

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“What we found was both remarkable and surprising: the Bay Trail has quietly stitched together a new world — a unique mixture of urban and natural scenes.”

-Carl T. Hall, Chronicle reporter (referring to his month-long journey on the Bay Trail)

“Of course, we saw the potential. All along, the idea was to have a necklace of shoreline parks, all of them linked together by the Bay Trail, and this is exactly what’s happening.”

-Sylvia McLaughlin, founder, Save the Bay

Oakland Embraces Estuary, Completes Plan for Shoreline Bay Trail

Today, the Oakland shoreline is largely dominated by heavy manufacturing, commercial and maritime-related industry with limited public access. Yet, times are changing. Community interest in the **Oakland waterfront** is increasing, along with the desire for waterfront redevelopment that balances job-producing industrial uses with improved public access, environmental quality, recreation and other publicly-oriented activities. Oakland is poised to transform its waterfront into a first-rate recreational resource; the most recent commitment to this effort is the completion of a study looking to identify a feasible Bay Trail alignment along the Oakland Estuary.

Using \$400,000 in Bay Trail and State Coastal Conservancy grants, Oakland hired EDAW Inc., an international planning and design firm, to lead the investigation. The feasibility study includes a recommended alignment and design guidelines for a six-and-a-half-mile stretch of shoreline Bay Trail, linking the existing Bay Trail segment at Jack London Square with the extensive trail system along Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. The **Oakland Waterfront Bay Trail Feasibility Study and Design Guidelines** was prepared earlier this fall.

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Above: Rendering of Oakland’s Bay Trail near the future Union Point Park. Image from EDAW’s Oakland Waterfront Bay Trail Feasibility Study and Design Guidelines Report.

Bruce Beyaert Receives Prestigious Bob Walker Award



Above: Beyaert displays his award - a beautiful Bob Walker original photograph.

Bay Trail Director **Bruce Beyaert** received the celebrated Bob Walker Bay Area Open Space Conservation Award at the Bay Area Open Space Council's annual conference in September. This award, created to honor open space visionary and photographer Bob Walker, is given to an individual who "has used creative partnerships and alliances to make a demonstrated contribution to Bay Area land conservation."

As a member of the Bay Trail Board, Save the Bay Board and East Bay Regional Park District Park Advisory Committee, Beyaert cares deeply about access to shoreline open space as well as the need to protect and restore the Bay. He considers public access "essential to allow the people of the Bay Area to connect intimately with the Bay and support measures to protect it." In his acceptance speech, Beyaert commended the open space community's recognition of the Bay Trail as "much more than just a strip of asphalt," but instead as part of the regional conservation effort.

Beyaert's approach is one that fosters unique partnerships and long-term commitment. In 2000, Beyaert founded the **Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC)**, and has since led TRAC diligently closer to its mission to "complete the San Francisco Bay Trail in the City of Richmond and to assure that it is linked to public parks and population centers, and that it is maintained in perpetuity." To date, TRAC has been instrumental in completing over seven miles of new Bay Trail and laying the groundwork for many more miles by spearheading numerous planning, design and engineering studies.

-For more information about TRAC, log on to:
<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/trac/welcome.htm> or
<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrails/>

-For more information about the Bay Area Open Space Council, visit <http://www.openspacecouncil.org>.

Lucretia Edwards Park Dedication: October 30, 2003

During a blustery week, the weather gods granted a window of blue sky for the dedication ceremony of Richmond's newest shoreline attraction: **Lucretia Edwards Park**. This beautiful park at the end of Marina Way offers knock-out views of the Bay and Brooks Island and a grand public promenade, extending the Bay Trail a little farther around Inner Harbor Basin, towards the former Ford Assembly Building. A large crowd of dignitaries, advocates and well-wishers enjoyed good food and jazz, along with memorable stories of Lucretia's tireless advocacy for public access for over 50 years.



Photo by Ellen Gailing Photography

Above: Lucretia (center) cuts the ribbon, assisted by (left to right) TRAC Chair Bruce Beyaert, Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Richmond City Manager Isiah Turner, Richmond Councilmember Tom Butt, Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson, Richmond Councilmember Charles Belcher (partially obscured) and Richmond Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Mel Davis.

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*Special thanks to PG&E for a direct contribution to the Bay Trail.

Sausalito Dedicates New Bike Lanes on Popular Bridgeway Avenue

On September 21, the City of Sausalito celebrated the completion of two new miles of bike lanes on **Bridgeway Avenue** through downtown Sausalito. The bike lanes extend from Princess Street to the northern city limits along a popular segment of the Bay Trail. The striped bike lanes separate motor vehicles from bicycle traffic and will improve safety along this busy corridor, which has been



Above: City Engineer Gordon Sweeney, Mayor Amy Belser, Councilmember Paul Albritton and Marin County Bicycle Coalition President Kim Baenisch officially dedicate the new Sausalito bike lanes.

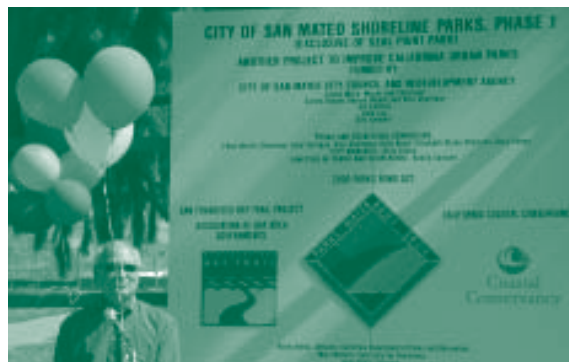
estimated by the Golden Gate Bridge District to accommodate as many as 5,000 bicyclists per day.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Sausalito Mayor **Amy Belser** and Councilmember **Paul Albritton** stressed the importance of bicycle transportation and acknowledged the **Marin County Bicycle Coalition's** strong support of the project.

Funding sources for the \$1.3 million project included Bay Trail grants (over \$408,000), the Federal Transportation Enhancements Fund, the Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and the City of Sausalito Gas Tax.

San Mateo Shoreline Park Breaks Ground

The City of San Mateo officially broke ground for new trail at **Shoreline Park** on October 3. The City received a \$500,000 Bay Trail grant to construct a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over San Mateo Creek and a Bay Trail spur in the new Seal Point Park as part of a multi-million dollar park improvement project. San Mateo will also enhance the existing Bay Trail shoreline alignment and construct a new footpath in Ryder Park. The new and improved trail system will connect the existing trail within Coyote Point Park to an extensive shoreline Bay Trail system in Foster City and Redwood Shores. Bay Trail Director and San Mateo County Controller **Tom Huening** spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony, noting how the Bay Trail has helped to increase awareness of the Bay by drawing residents to the shoreline.



Above: Bay Trail Director and San Mateo County Controller Tom Huening speaks on behalf of the Bay Trail at the groundbreaking ceremony for Shoreline Park.

The Bay Trail Adventure: A Front Page Story (continued from page 1)

The media attention continued as **CBS 5** launched a week-long special Bay Trail feature on the evening news. Both series enjoyed cross promotion in publication and airing. CBS 5 investigative reporters visited sites all along the Bay Trail and used dramatic photography to tell stories such as the history of the environmental movement that spawned Save the Bay and the massive salt pond restoration planned for the South Bay.

Both the Chronicle and CBS 5 series delivered a common theme: when people experience the Bay, whether it be by walking, bicycling, windsurfing or volunteering to remove non-native plants, they become its best advocates and stewards. A new generation is growing up with a new awareness of the Bay's importance. Or, as **David Lewis**, Executive Director of Save the Bay said: "... when people have access to the Bay...they get an opportunity to experience it directly and appreciate it."

The high profile series introduced many to the Bay Trail and hopefully will encourage exploration by first-timers and long-timers alike. The (combined) series is also receiving accolades, including an award bestowed by the **Friends of the San Francisco Estuary**, at their October Biennial State of the Estuary Conference. The awards panel found that the series "captured both the big-picture vision of an uninterrupted trail around the bay, as well as the local stories, important habitat and hidden natural and cultural treasures to be found." Congratulations to the Chronicle and CBS 5.

Did you miss any of the articles or television coverage?

- Read the **San Francisco Chronicle** articles at:
<http://www.sfgate.com/gate/special/pages/2003/baytrail>
- View the **CBS 5** series at:
<http://beta.kpix.com/news/baytrail>

Filling in the Gaps

Despite nearly 15 years of effort and expedited progress in recent years, there are still numerous Bay Trail gaps to complete. Generally, the easiest sections have already been built and the more challenging stretches are left. To help overcome the remaining obstacles, the Bay Trail Project initiated a detailed inventory and analysis of all gaps along the 400-mile Bay Trail alignment. The goal of the **Gap Analysis** is to answer the two most frequent questions posed by policymakers, media and the public: when will the Bay Trail be finished, and how much will it cost.

The Bay Trail Project hired **GreenInfo Network** to assist with collection, organization and analysis of the gap data. Data collection is currently underway. Later this year, Bay Trail staff will ask shoreline communities to help complete focused questionnaires designed to collect information about gaps throughout the region. The final product will include preliminary cost estimates for completing each gap and a framework for completing the entire trail network.

*For more information, contact Bay Trail Planner
Laura Thompson at 510/464-7909.*

Bay Trail Board Changes

Arrivals

Welcome to two new Directors who were voted onto the Bay Trail Board in September:

David Lewis, became Executive Director of Save the Bay in 1998, after 14 years of organizing legislative and issue campaigns from Washington, DC. Save the Bay is a leading advocate for increasing public access to the Bay. There is strong overlap between the Bay Trail and Save the Bay's organizational missions and possibilities for even stronger partnership.

Linda Stonier, Outdoor Recreation Planner with the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service, has joined the Advisory Council of the Board. Linda has over 15 years of experience with RTCA and is currently offering assistance on trail issues in Richmond, and on a new Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

Departures

"Goodbye and thank you" to **Ron Schafer**, California State Parks, who served on the Bay Trail Board since June 2002 and has been transferred out of the region and to **Helena Culik Caro**, Caltrans, who has been promoted to another division. Staff is working with State Parks and Caltrans to identify replacement candidates.

New Bay-Ridge Trail Segment Opens in Benicia

The Bay Trail Project joined the California State Parks, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, the State Coastal Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land on September 27 to dedicate a new two-mile trail segment along the Carquinez Strait in the **Benicia State Recreation Area**.

This collaborative construction project was made possible by several grants, including \$100,000 from the Bay Trail grant program. The new trail segment is a shared **Bay Trail and Ridge Trail** alignment extending over the park's western hills, offering expansive views of the Carquinez Strait. The trail around the outer edge of the park is accessible to wheelchairs.

State Senator **Liz Figueroa** and Assembly member **Lois Wolk** kicked off the well-attended ceremony with comments about partnership and the importance of trails in our communities. Speakers included Vallejo Mayor **Tony Intintoli**, Benicia Mayor **Steve Messina**, **State Park representatives** from the Diablo Vista District, **Nadine Hitchcock** of the State Coastal Conservancy, Ridge Trail Executive Director **Holly Van Houten** and Bay Trail Board Chair **Rick Parmer**.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by a guided hike along the new trail lead by State Parks Ranger **John Crossman**. Wheelchair riders, bicyclists and horseback riders also traversed the trail.



Above top: Hikers enjoy views of the Carquinez Strait from the new trail in Benicia State Recreation Area. **Above bottom:** Project partners, elected officials and trail supporters gathered to dedicate the new Bay-Ridge Trail in Benicia State Recreation Area.

Along The Bay Trail

Regional

Planning for the large-scale **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration** is underway. The State Coastal Conservancy is coordinating the long-term restoration planning process which will be managed jointly by the Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Bay Trail staff will participate in the newly formed stakeholder forum, representing public access concerns. For questions about the relationship to the Bay Trail, contact Janet McBride at 510/464-7935 or for more information and to learn how to get involved, visit the project website at: <http://www.southbayrestoration.org>.

San Francisco

California State Parks is preparing to restore wetlands at **Yosemite Slough** in Candlestick Point State Recreation Area and construct a portion of the Bay Trail as part of the project. Three alternatives were identified in the *Yosemite Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study*, each with a continuous Bay Trail alignment. State Parks will soon begin the process of selecting an alternative and conducting environmental review. In addition to wetland restoration and trail construction, the project will include an education center and interpretive signs.

Santa Clara

As part of the **Bayfront Expressway/Highway 84** widening and improvement project, Caltrans has improved a key Bay Trail segment from the touchdown of the Dumbarton Bridge to Marsh Road in Menlo Park. The enhanced path extends from the Dumbarton Bridge to Willow Road on the south side of Bayfront Expressway, and from Willow Road to the Bayfront Park entrance on the north side of Bayfront Expressway. In addition to pathway repaving, striping and, in some cases, widening, the project includes a safer crossing at University Avenue and a new viewing area at the western foot of the Dumbarton Bridge.

Alameda

A new study conducted by Alameda County has determined that the Oakland Coliseum BART station, the Oakland Coliseum, and the soon-to-be-completed Amtrak station could be connected to the Bay Trail. In the forthcoming **BART to Bay Trail** report, the County has drawn up plans for a path along Damon Slough, over a reconfigured 66th Avenue overcrossing of I-880, and into Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline. Construction funding would need to be secured.

Did you know a big new park is being built in Oakland? Half of **Middle Harbor Shoreline Park** is already open, including the grassy meadow of Point Arnold, perfect for watching ships and port operations. The park connects Oakland neighborhoods to valuable shoreline open space and includes new wetland habitat. More of the park will open in the spring, including an observation tower and Oakland's only public beach.

Contra Costa

A new stretch of Bay Trail now connects **Point Isabel** in Richmond with a separated path south of Central Avenue (across the street from Costco). This segment was developed by the East Bay Regional Park District and extends along the shoreline, winding around the East Bay Municipal Utility District facility. Graded areas will be hydroseeded with grasses and wildflowers to stabilize soils and minimize runoff.



Above: Bay Trail riders gather in historic Port Costa before cycling to Martinez on Carquinez Scenic Drive.

Carquinez played host to over 30 Bay Trail riders in August, as part of the annual *Celebrate the Strait* festival. Contra Costa County Public Works Director **Julie Bueren** and Bay Trail Planner **David Lipsetz** led a fun and energetic group of cyclists along the abandoned **Carquinez Scenic Drive** on a ride organized to highlight efforts to repair and reopen the road to non-motorized travel. Contra Costa County is currently studying whether the Bay Trail could follow the old roadway between Crockett and Martinez, which has been closed for over 20 years following major landslides.

The **Pinole Creek bicycle and pedestrian bridge** is open! Half a mile of trail east of the creek was also constructed, and the Bay Trail now connects Bay Front Park to Pinole Shores Park. Many area residents are already riding, rolling and strolling over the creek and through the parks.

Solano

The Solano Transportation Authority is almost finished with the **Bay Trail Focus Element** of the **Solano County-wide Trails Plan**, funded through a \$46,000 Bay Trail planning grant. The study documents conditions, opportunities, constraints and alternatives along the Bay Trail route through Benicia and Vallejo. It will provide information on alternative route options and cost estimates to complete the remaining Bay Trail gaps in Solano County.

Oakland Embraces Estuary, Completes Plan for Shoreline Bay Trail (continued from page 1)

The study results are forward-thinking, responsive to Oakland's industrial history and future as a waterfront city and promising for the Bay Trail. The study envisions a nearly continuous shoreline Bay Trail connecting a suite of existing and planned parks, piers and industrially-oriented open spaces. Within the project boundaries, four distinct character areas - downtown, marina, industrial and marshland - were identified and used to help guide the formulation of design guidelines that complement the existing and future qualities along the shoreline.

City voters declared their support for the Oakland shoreline last fall by passing a \$198 million bond measure to support parks, recreation and water quality improvements along the waterfront and Lake Merritt. Known as **Measure DD**, the bond will provide funds to implement many of the recommended improvements. The timing of the study is especially fortuitous, since it can now be used as a blueprint for new trail development under Measure DD and other funding sources.

Oakland's Waterfront Open Space Project Manager **Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris**, and EDAW's Principal Planner **Jacinta McCann** reported on the study's findings at the Bay Trail Board of Directors September meeting, at the beautiful new Jack London Aquatic Center in Estuary Park. Board members previewed the design proposals and future trail alignment opportunities prior to touring the study area aboard a water taxi.

The study will be presented at upcoming public meetings and a copy of the report is available for a fee. Oakland City Council is expected to consider adopting the study on March 9th. Call Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris at 510/238-1628 for details.



Bay Trail Maps Available for Purchase

Tour the Bay Trail with a **six-map set** that covers the shoreline of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, encompassing nine counties and 47 cities. Map backs feature enticing photographs and 40 recommended routes to inspire and guide shoreline recreation. To purchase Bay Trail maps, visit www.baytrail.org or call the Association of Bay Area Governments at 510/464-7900. The map set is priced at \$12.00 and individual maps are \$3.00, plus tax and shipping.

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Bay Trail Rider, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail. If you would like to be added or removed from the mailing list, write (to above address) or email Melissa Barry (MelissaB@abag.ca.gov). Please indicate whether you wish to be added or removed in the subject line and include your full name and address.



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